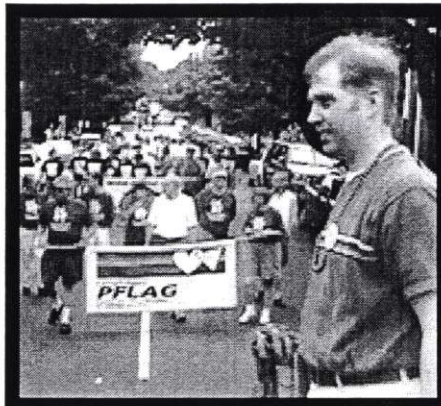


left: Bob Lovett, and Steve Black on stage. above: Roy Afflerbach. below: Jane Ervin, Gail Hoover, and Pam Varcony. Matt Croslis.

PRIDE FESTIVAL RAIN DIDN'T STOP THE CROWDS



Grand Marshall Steve Black leads parade.

STATE SENATE PASSES HATE CRIMES BILL !!!

On June 22, 12:40 a.m., the PA Senate passed legislation to amend the state's Ethnic Intimidation Act by adding sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, mental and physical disability, and ancestry. This legislation is the most inclusive language of any hate crimes bill in the country. It is the first piece of pro-gay legislation to pass in PA State government.

The effort for passage was lead by PA-GALA (The Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action), and several other groups including; the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights and the Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition (SPARC). The bill won passage by a 32 to 15 vote with all 20 Democrats and 12 Republicans voting yes. The bill must now pass the House.

Steve Black, political director of PA-GALA, who has been dedicated to working on this legislation for many years stated, "individuals throughout the Commonwealth made this victory possible by lobbying their local Senators."



WHAT THEY SAID ON STAGE

I can't express the pride I feel to be your candidate...We all know it's high time to pass Allentown's Human Relations Ordinance...if I win I pledge to introduce that legislation...

**Allentown City Council
 Dem. candidate
 Gail Hoover**

I want you all to know that you are valued and appreciated in the City of Allentown...we are grateful for what you do for the City, and I will be here for you every step of the way...

**Allentown City
 Council
 member
 Pam Varkony**

...I see a city, that in the not too distant future will recognize what private companies have begun to recognize...that shared benefits have a value in this society for people who have a relationship together...

**Roy Afflerbach,
 Democrat candidate
 for Allentown Mayor**

...As the folks at Air Products and the Diversity Committee that I was very instrumental in starting, I will tell you, I'm very supportive of diversity including bisexual, gay and lesbian initiatives...

**Bob Lovett, Rep.
 candidate for
 Allentown Mayor**

It is an honor and a pleasure to be here today to say thank you for all the wonderful contributions that the gay and lesbian community makes to our neighborhoods...
**Acting Lehigh
 County Exec.
 Jane Ervin**

...I plan to support an initiative that insures that HIV testing remains anonymous...there is no need to frighten people away from testing by forcing them to give their names to the government...

**State Rep. Jennifer
 Mann's statement,
 read by Lehigh County
 Exec. Dem. candidate
 Matt Croslis**

FACT SUMMER GAMES

September 9, Rainbow Mt. Resort, 12:30 to 6:00 pm. \$15 in advance or \$20 at gate. Food, team competition, vendor tables, entertainment, Gay Men's Chorus, bagpipers, raffles, and Names Project quilt panels. Hosts / MCs: Tinsel Garland, Robbie Staur and Brian Marks. Volunteers and more teams needed. For info: 610-437-6433.



PLANET Parenthood

edited by Carolyn Lewis

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DATING?

I have sunk to a new low - I found myself having a meaningful conversation with the "you've got mail" voice. This is really pitiful, even for me. So I'm thinking it may be time to get out into the world and meet real people. Maybe even, dare I say it - date! But there are so many factors that go into making such a monumental decision. First of all there is the time factor. Taking time for oneself is no easy task for single parents, as I'm sure you know. Parenting is extremely time consuming and most of us must also work full time. There is the house to keep up with, the bottomless dirty sock pile, the driving around, and all the other countless duties, tasks, and responsibilities that come with the parenting package. It's long hours and little sleep as a general rule. But it's summertime so it may be the illusion of longer days that makes me think I have more time.

Then there is the suitability factor. Finding someone safe and responsible who likes and understands kids can seem daunting. Do they like me because I have kids or, worse, in spite of my kids? - because either way won't work. And how, exactly, does one go about finding a compatible person with whom to spend some time? I just can't seem to wear my "single lesbian mom" shirt to the grocery store. I'm out but not weird. There are the bars, of course. That may work for you and there are certainly lots of folks out there. You can also join some of the local organizations listed here in the VFP. And then there are the personals. (I know, scary thought, huh!) But there is a site at planetout.com you might want to check out. You can post an ad and search the database for free. But if you want to contact someone you have to pay a fee. (I'm not endorsing the site, nor am I making any claims as to its efficacy, reliability, or safety. I'm pointing out that it's a resource available that seems to have a good number of local people and there is a space to address the issue of kids.)

And finally, of course, there is the guilt factor. How could I possibly leave the kids with a babysitter (particularly if they've been in day care or school all day) to go out and have a good time? How can I spend money on myself when my dishwasher is held together with duct tape? I know how I justify it: My kids are tired of having a cranky mom. A little time spent in adult company is a stress reliever for me. It has taken me years to figure this out, but I'm a much better parent if I take care of myself, too.

So stay tuned for future columns which may include: Introducing Your Children to That Special Someone; Incorporating Your Children Into Your Commitment Ceremony; or The Primary Methodologies for Effective Sock Sorting.

DINNER AND A MOVIE FRI. AUG 10 - YOU'RE INVITED

Save Friday evening (August 10) to see "The Adventures of Felix," at 19 St. Theatre. VFP's newest columnist Scott Laubner saw the film at the Philly Gay Film Festival and recommends it. Scott also reports there is (warning) a full frontal nudity scene. "Dinner (at Mom's Pizza across the street) and the movie is being coordinated by Scott. Pizza and Soda at Mom's \$7 at 6pm. Movie: \$6, starts at 8pm. E-mail scottlaubner@yahoo.com to RSVP. 25 people have already confirmed!

19TH STREET MOVIE SCHEDULE

The Adventures of Felix: Aug. 4-12, Pavilion of Women: Aug. 11-19, The Graduate: Aug. 15-18, The Man Who Cried: Aug. 18-26, Phantom of the Opera (Silent): Aug. 25-26, Startup.com: Aug. 25-27, Divided We Fall: Sept. 4-9, The Princess and the Warrior: Sept. 8-15. Movie schedule subject to change. Call (610) 432-0888 for information, or go to <www.civictheatre.com>.



RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, I am 21 and curious about my financial future. When should I get started and what should think about?

Signed, Curious

Dear Curious, According to a recent study by OppenheimerFunds and Third Millennium (a Gen-X advocacy group), young "singles" wait for a milestone to occur in their lives, such as getting married or having children, before they start saving and investing. Obviously the study didn't take our lives into consideration, since gay men and lesbians can't legally marry, and children don't just "occur."

The point is, don't wait. It's easy to put off planning when your only dependent is a Golden Retriever named Bailey, but "singles" are actually more at risk of financial catastrophe than couples, since couples generally have two incomes.

Start Saving. Look at your employer's retirement savings plan. If your employer matches your contributions, your investment will grow even more. Your 401k contributions, can lower your taxes by reducing your taxable income.

Why now and not later? You may not have the money later. Ten or 20 years from now, you could be facing additional expenses, like parents or friends who need your financial help or health concerns of your own.

Consider Buying a Home. You don't have to postpone buying a home until you have settled down with a partner. Now is a good time since interest rates are declining and there are many low down payment programs, which make single ownership affordable. If you are single, childless and a renter - which many gay men and lesbians are - you've a target on your back as far as taxes are concerned. You will reduce your income taxes by owning a home.

But don't consider a home if you think you will move within the next 5 years and be aware of the expected cost of maintenance, insurance and property taxes.

Live Happily But Plan for the Worst. Make sure you have disability insurance. Your largest asset is your ability to earn an income. Carefully review a policy. Look for coverage which is guaranteed to be renewable and noncancellable. Have an adequate cash reserve (six months to a year's worth of expenses). Even though you are single, you should plan your estate, at the very least, have a will. Without a will all your assets will go to your parents, or next closest relative. If that's not what you want, then obtain a will to designate your heirs.

This is information is one person's opinion and may not fit your financial situation.

FACT BOWLING TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Seven teams competed. About 40 people attended. About \$400 was raised for FACT. VFP Editors Liz and Trish teamed up with two pre-teen players and their mom. (We wanted to call the team Girls Rule, they wanted Pokemon, we settled for Pokey Girls, which applied to us anyway.) Liz and Trish both nearly broke 100 thanks to gully gates!

Meanwhile, the top scoring team was Pride LV, top scoring female was Cathy, top scoring male was Tabatha's dad Mike (definitely MVP with 6 strikes in a row). Both Steve Black and Scott Laubner played on the Pride Team and both say they owe their team win to Mike and Tabatha.

While everyone was having a fun time, FACT President Arlene Baron and event organizer Brian Marks kept things going. Trophies went to top scorers and the kids, Alexa and Bridgette.

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Women's softball every Tuesday and Thursday, call Diamonzo (610-865-1028) for information.

HOT NEWS

GLOSS UPDATE

As of 8/1/01, GLOSS (Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society) will no longer play volleyball in the Lehigh Parkway. From now until the end of the season the games (Tuesday and Thursday) will be held at the Catasauqua Park & Playground. To be kept up to date on GLOSS volleyball, join the email list. Simply send an empty email message to <gloss-vball-subscribe@yahooogroups.com>.

PRIDE NATIONAL COMING OUT EVENTS

Pride LV announces another exciting first for the Valley, a weekend of great events to celebrate and educate for National Coming Out Day in early October. "A Weekend Out in the VALLEY" will feature a Film Festival on Thursday, Oct. 11, a YOUTH DANCE on Friday, Oct. 12, and a comedy night "Laughing OUT Loud". More events may be added, so check the next VFP and the Pride website (www.pridelv.org) for more details. If you want to get involved, please come to the next general meeting at 7 pm on Wed., Aug. 15, UUCLV at 424 Center St., Bethlehem, or contact Pride at 610-770-6200 or <pridelv@hotmail.com>.

PRIDE ELECTIONS

The voting will take place at the October General Meeting which will be held at 7 pm on Wed., October 17 at UUCLV at 424 Center St., Bethlehem. To run for a board position, please contact Pride voicemail at 610-770-6200 or at <pridelv@hotmail.com>. To be able to vote at a Pride Election you must be a member. To become a voting member, you have to attend one previous meeting and provide Pride with your contact info. If you want to vote and are not a member, you still have a chance to become one by attending the Aug. 15 meeting at 7 pm.

MCCLV EVENTS

Monday, August 13 at 7 pm: Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday September 2: Rev. Durrell Watkins Pastor, New Light MCC Hagerstown, MD, Workshop: "Queering the Bible"
October 20, 6 pm.: MCCLV's Annual Appreciation Banquet, Hotel Bethlehem

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GLORA EVENTS

GLORA, the Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown, reminds everyone that August 11 is "Gay Day" at Knoebel's Grove Amusement Park in Elysburg. Registration will begin at 11 am.

- August 26 - Miniature golf at Schell's on Rte 222 in Reading.
 - September 2 - Potluck/picnic at Nockamixon State Park.
 - September 22 - Night out at the Nostalgia Bar in Reading.
 - September 30 - Potluck/picnic at Green Lane in Pennsburg.
 - October 6 - Potluck in Allentown.
 - December 2 - GLORA'S 12th Anniversary Dinner at Bower's Hotel
- For additional information about this and other GLORA events write GLORA at P.O. Box 1952, Allentown, PA, 18105-1952, or

MCCLV DONATION

MCCLV, the Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley, is proud to announce that the \$278 raised at the Pridefest booth basket raffle, will be donated to the Liberty High School Gay / Straight Alliance in support of their events and activities for the coming 2001-2002 school year.

AIDSWALK OCTOBER 7

Lehigh Valley AIDSWALK 2001 will be Sunday, October 7. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., the event kick off begins at 12:30 p.m. and the walk starts at 1:00 p.m. Money raised by this walk will stay in the Lehigh Valley.

The 5 K walk (a shorter route has been designated for those with special needs) will begin at the Bethlehem Rose Garden at Eighth Avenue and W. Union Blvd. Pre-walk festivities include live entertainment, and presentations by participating agencies.

To volunteer, sponsor, form a team, or walk, or to learn how you can help call 620-767-8695 or access Lehigh Valley AIDSWALK website at <www.lehighvalleyaidswalk.com>.

PA-GALA PARTY IN PHILLY - SEPT. 14

PA-GALA leader Steve Black announces an important fund raiser to support work on the State Hate Crimes Bill, to be held at the William Way Center in Philadelphia on September 14, at 7pm. Call 610-863-4961 for further details.

ACCO

SEEKS INTERIM DIRECTOR

ACCO, A Chorus Celebrating Women, is seeking an interim artistic director for the 2001-2002 performance season. ACCO is a diverse women's chorus singing music inspired by feminist principle and dedicated to creating community through the power and passion of music. The main responsibilities of the interim director will be conducting weekly rehearsals and leading the chorus in performance at its annual Solstice Concert and two spring 2002 performances. To apply or for more information on this opening, please contact 610-767-7897.

LV GAY MEN'S CHORUS

The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus welcomes new singers for this fall's concert season. Regular Tuesday evening rehearsals begin on August 21 at Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St. in Bethlehem. Practice will begin at 7:00pm. (new singers arrive at 6:30) The Chorus is open to all persons, tenor or bass voiced, who are gay, lesbian, or who are respectful of gay and lesbian issues.

The coming season will center on the performance of "Sing for the Cure", which benefits the Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The Chorus will perform this piece locally on November 17 and also in New Haven, Ct. The LVGMC will also be singing at the FACT Games, Sept. 9 at Rainbow Mt. Further information : <LVGMC.org> or (610) 366-3320.

PSYCHODRAMA GROUP

Wanted: Individuals interested in a newly forming Psychodrama group. Psychodrama involves role playing in the process of exploring relationships, family issues, and communication. The group would meet weekly or every other week depending on the needs of the participants. If enough interest is generated from the GLBT population, there will be a GLBT group. Anyone interested, contact Linda at (610)253-5454, or e-mail at <LMICH5105@aol.com>.

3RD ANNUAL GLEAM PICNIC

GLEAM - Gay and Lesbian Employees at Merck will be holding a picnic on Saturday August 18, at 1 PM, in Peace Valley Park near Doylestown, PA. Come and join your fellow GLEAM members and guests. Please bring a food item, your significant other and/or friend(s), Frisbee, walking shoes, bike... etc. RSVP to <Jay_Bates@Merck.com>

CALENDAR

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, Rehearsals, Thursdays 7-10pm at UUCLV Bethlehem, 610.767.7897

AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/lvaidswalk

ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

As If Productions - Documentary Film Makers, 610.434.7845

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay & Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm.

Bowling- Monday Nights, Mountainville Lanes, 610-691-8303

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

Enigma Players 610-432-0706

EQUAL! at Agere 610.712.5532

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

GLEE at Air Products

GLASS- at Lehigh Univ., 610.758.3469

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagrant.hollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter- The Tassie. Write to: P.O. Box 1952, Allentown PA 18105-1952, email-GLORAINPA@AOL.COM

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 Volleyball, Tennis, Racquet Ball 610.434.2966.

GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd and 4th Saturday Monthly 7pm UUCLV, Bethlehem, 610.954.7775

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian and Gay Episcopalians Family and Friends 1st Monday each month 7pm Trinity Episcopal Church 2nd Floor Chapel, 44 E. Market Street Bethlehem. 610-758-8642

KS-Kindred Spirits- Support, discussion, and social group for lesbians and bisexual women Fridays at 6:30pm, Contact : Chris at 610-868-0248, or Donna at 610.997.00607

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, Rehearsals Tuesdays, UUCLV Bethlehem. 610.366.3320, lvgmc@hotmail.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, office- 424 Center St. (UUCLV), Bethlehem, 6 pm Sundays, 610.954.7775

NCC- Northampton Community College Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union, Meetings every Monday from 4pm to 6pm at CC114 (Cohen Lounge), College Center call 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 882-2531

19th St/Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-GALA - PA Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Voter's Info Booklet, & Political Lobbying) For membership: send \$20 to: P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610.432.5449

PFLAG - LV Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and gays 2nd Sundays 3pm at NCC, Coll. Cntr Rm 134 610.967.5219 <www.users.fast.net/~pflag>

Pride - Pride of the Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <lvpride@hotmail.com>, <www.prideval.org>

QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College Farion Center Box 429 Easton, PA, <QuEST.Lafayette@hotmail.com>

AUGUST 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 RAA GLOSS ACCO	3 KS	4 BEARS WDIY GLOSS
5 WDIY NCFM UUCLV	6 RAA INTEGRITY	7 GLOSS LVGMC softball	8	9 Bowling RAA GLOSS Softball	10 Movie & Monks KS	11 GLORA@Knee WDIY GLOSS
12 PFLAG MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	13 RAA MCCCLV BD	14 GLOSS LVGMC softball	15 PRIDE	16 Bowling RAA GLOSS Softball	17 KS	18 WDIY GLOSS GLEAM
19 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	20 RAA	21 GLOSS LVGMC softball	22	23 Bowling RAA GLOSS Softball	24 KS	25 WDIY GLOSS
26 GLORA MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	27 RAA	28 GLOSS LVGMC softball	29	30 Bowling RAA GLOSS softball	31	

SEPTEMBER 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 WDIY GLOSS BEARS
2 GLORA MCC AS IF WDIY NCFM UUCLV	3 INTEGRITY RAA Labor Day	4 GLOSS LVGMC	5	6 ACCO Rehearsals RAA GLOSS Bowling	7 KS	8 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
9 PFLAG FACT SUMMER GAMES	10 RAA	11 GLOSS LVGMC	12	13 Reading RAA PFLAG GLOSS ACCO Bowling	14 PA-GALA FUND RAISER	15 WDIY GLOSS
16 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	17 RAA ROSH HASHANAH	18 GLOSS LVGMC	19	20 Bowling RAA GLOSS ACCO	21 KS	22 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
23 30 MCC GLORA WDIY NCFM UUCLV	24 RAA	25 GLOSS LVGMC	26	27 ACCO RAA GLOSS Bowling	28	29

OCTOBER 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	1 INTEGRITY RAA	2 GLOSS LVGMC	3	4 Bowling RAA GLOSS ACCO	5 KS	6 BEARS WDIY GLOSS
7 AIDSWALK MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	8 RAA	9 GLOSS LVGMC	10	11 PRIDE NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY	12 KS PRIDE	13 GMLV WDIY GLOSS PRIDE
14 PFLAG MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	15 RAA	16 GLOSS LVGMC	17 PRIDE	18 Bowling RAA GLOSS ACCO	19 KS	20 MCC WDIY BANQUET GLOSS
21 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	22 RAA	23 GLOSS LVGMC	24	25 Bowling RAA GLOSS ACCO	26 KS	27 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
28 MCC WDIY NCFM UUCLV	29 RAA	30 GLOSS LVGMC	31			

Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting
Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem,
PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs.
Episcopal Church, 16th & Turner Atown.

Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc.,
PO Box 3624 Atown, PA 18016
610- 821- 2955 renlv@ren.org

Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College
Organization 610.821.3244

Reading P-FLAG 610.488.7533 or 670.8029

Safe Space At Lehigh U. 610.758.3469

Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming,
gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown
610.435.1587

Softball- (Women's) call Diamondz,
610.865.1028

T.O. - Theatre Outlet- 29 Nth 9th St, Allentown,
610-820-9270.

TST- Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th St. Beth.
610-867-1689, touchstone@nni.com

Unity- 26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417

UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church of the
Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem,
18018 610.866.7652.

VFP - Valley Free Press 610.432.5449

VYH - Valley Youth House weekly group for
emotionally troubled GLBT youth 610.432.6481

WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Saturday 7:30 pm
Assorted Women, Sunday 6:30pm- This Way
Out 610.694.8100

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

BINGO AT DIAMONZ - SUNDAYS
RAINBOW BOWLING -
THURSDAYS

KI NDRD SPIRITS - FRIDAYS
LV BEARS - FIRST SATURDAYS

GLOSS VOLLEYBALL -
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS
GLOSS RACQUETBALL -

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS
DIAMONZ SOFTBALL -

TUES & THURS
DINNER @ MOM 5 AND A MOVIE

AUG 10
GLORA AT KNOEBELS - AUG 11
MCCLV BD OF DIRECTORS - AUG 13

GAAMC/EQUAL! PICNIC - AUG 12
PFLAG - AUG 12

GLEAM PICNIC - AUG 18
GLORA MINATURE GOLF -

AUG 26
GLORA POTLUCK - SEPT 2
MCCLV QUEERING THE BIBLE -

SEPT 2
AS IF FUNDRAISER - SEPT 2
FACT SUMMER GAMES - SEPT 9

PA-GALA FUNDRAISER - SEPT 14
GLORA POTLUCK - SEPT 30

AIDS WALK - OCT 7
PRIDE FILM FEST - OCT 11
PRIDE YOUTH DANCE - OCT 12

PRIDE COMEDY NIGH T- OCT 13
PRIDE ELECTIONS - OCT 17
MCCLV ANNUAL BANQUET -

OCT 20
FACT @ STATE THEATER - NOV 11
LVGMC CONCERT - NOV 17

FACT SNOWBALL - DEC 2
GLORA ANNUAL DINNER - DEC 2

THE INFORMATION IN THIS
CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO
CHANGE. CALL TO CONFIRM
TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
EMAIL: LIZTRISH@AOL.COM

ALLEN TOWN HEALTH DEPT. REMINDER

With the summer comes an increased risk of West Nile encephalitis...a brain inflammation resulting from the bite of an infected mosquito. WNE produces flu-like symptoms for most people but can be deadly in the elderly, very young or those with compromised immune systems. To protect yourself:

1. Eliminate standing water on your property. Empty bird baths every five days. Remove tires, paint cans or receptacles that can catch rain water. Remove drainage dishes from under planters around your deck or in your yard.
2. Use bug repellent (containing DEET) after sundown in the summer months (SUMMER GAMES), especially near wooded areas or standing water.

TRULY INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

AS IF is still accepting 5-10 minute short films for the LV's first short film festival to coincide with National Coming Out Weekend in October. Please send tapes to AS IF Productions, 120 N. 12th St., Allentown, PA 18102. For information: 610-434-7845.

AS IF FUNDRAISER

AS IF Productions will hold an 80's Retro Labor Day Dance Party at Stonewall on Sept 2, 10 pm - 2am. With a raffle, drag queens, go-go boys, and Fun! Support your local non-profit video documentary

PRIDE LV IN PUERTO RICAN PARADE

Members of Pride, PFLAG, PA-GALA, VFP, GLEE and others marched and rode on Don Kohn's nifty antique truck to represent the GLBT community in the July 29 parade.

POINT - COUNTERPOINT

By Jason Coble and Stephen Libbey

Jason

"Queer as Folk" is entertaining and fun, however, I'm a gay man, and can recognize it for what it is...a gay soap opera. It's not real life.

Most heterosexual people, who see the show are really put off by its flamboyant nature. They are offended by the sexual attitude in the show, and quite frankly, so am I. I don't and never have had purely libidinal sex with random strangers just to get off, nor do I want my heterosexual coworkers and friends thinking that it's the major part of gay life. I don't like the thought of my parents watching this, and thinking, "Oh my God, is that what Jason does?"

This show makes us all look like a bunch of pill popping whores. There is no monogamy, except for one couple and even they had affairs with other people. The only lesbian couple had a horrible split when one of them strayed. When we portray ourselves this way, we can't really call anyone narrow minded, when they think we are this way. Many heterosexuals, can't understand this is not real (gay) life.

There's the fake heterosexual marriage just to be able stay in the country, and a 30 year old man dating an underage teenager. Not positive things. If we want to be accepted, we need to start showing a better example of who we (all) are.

As a gay man, QAF isn't changing my opinions about the gay community. But, I think it could turn others against us. We need to understand that. The people who call themselves gay activists, fighting for better awareness and tolerance of gay people, should be the first people to criticize this show. We already know there are many Pat Robertsons out there ready to piss all over us with their intolerant opinions, why must we give them ammunition?

Stephen

Queer as what folk? That seems to be the response not only from Jason but from many viewers. Who the hell acts like this? The all white, predominately male cast appears to be more concerned about developing their pecs than developing relationships. They spend more time having sex than working or...doing anything else for that matter. This is a cast of characters who are basically self-indulgent, self-serving and I say it's about time!

I have been waiting for years to see an irresponsible representation of gay people for entertainment's sake. I can certainly appreciate some criticism of this less than perfect program. I would like to see the lack of ethnic and sexual minority diversity in the cast addressed in the second season.

As for "Gay Representation" for the larger population; there are many fine documentaries and films out there to watch with your parents and friends. Why can't this show just be fun, like straight soap operas?

QAF has had many episodes about important gay issues. Gay bashing, HIV/AIDS, supporting politicians who support us, PFLAG, same gender parenting, coming out, nature vs. nurture, schools, have been just some of the topics during the show's first season. That's not shabby. The very existence of QAF supports the idea that not every gay themed TV program or movie must be made to educate the heterosexual population. Isn't it time for a show FOR us, instead of ABOUT us for the heterosexual world?

For this reason I am surprised by the backlash from within our GLBT community. Is QAF spicy? Yeah, like a jalapeno. But why is that so bad? For years all we've had was blatant heterosexual activity on TV. This is the first gay show that has dared to be like straight soap operas. Take it that way. Feel guilty watching? Write a pro-gay letter to Congress prior to viewing. Then kick back and be entertained.

What's That About?



Readers write or email
"What's That About?"
editors with questions
about gay and lesbian issues.



Dear WTA, I'm concerned about this faith based initiative that President Bush and the GOP are pushing. It clearly channels tax dollars into religious institutions, some of which will discriminate against minorities, especially GLBT people. What can I do about it? **Signed Worried**

Dear Worried, Yep, this initiative in general is a problem in terms of discrimination, and the separation of Church and State. The American public should see the true face of it reflected in the deal the Salvation Army tried to cut with a White House Aide to by-pass state anti-discrimination laws to be able to discriminate against gay men and lesbians. Even when the White House pulled back from the deal after it was exposed, the GOP in the House still passed the anti-minority loop hole to circumvent existing state anti-discrimination laws.

We can try to stop this initiative in the Senate by contacting our Senators and telling them we are against tax dollars funding discrimination through the Faith based Initiative and that they should vote no on it.

In PA, our two US Senators are Arlen Specter and Rick Santorum. Their contact information is : Specter: <<http://specter.senate.gov>>; Post Office Building, Fifth and Hamilton Streets, Allentown, PA 18101; (610) 434-1444; Washington, DC Office (202) 224-4254. Santorum: <<http://santorum.senate.gov>>; 504 West Hamilton Street Room 102, Allentown, PA 18101; (610) 770-0142; Washington, DC Office (202) 224-6324.

Dear WTA, I'm pretty shocked that the Salvation Army seems to be so anti-gay. Are they? And if so, where do I take my old-clothes donations? **Signed, Donor**

Dear Donor, Yes, the Salvation Army has a long and public history of discrimination against the GLBT community. Contributing stuff to them may help the homeless, but it also provides funding for the S.A. to perpetuate this discrimination. Donate your stuff to non-discriminatory agencies that help the homeless instead. Most thrift shops that aren't religious, don't have a policy of discrimination. Check into those that benefit public hospitals.

Confidential to the two gay men who recently walked out of an Allentown store leaving the items they intended to purchase on the back counter, when they heard a management person making very rude anti-gay remarks: The Valley Free Press is pursuing this issue with the help of other concerned people in the community. This incident is about one bigot rather than a store policy. A personnel change at the store may be pending. Stay tuned.

SPECIAL PFLAG MEETING

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gay's next meeting is Sunday, August 12, 3 to 5 pm at Northampton Com. Coll. in College Center, Room 134. The video "Family Stories: Journeys of Spirit in Mixed Orientation Families," will be shown.

Featured in the video are LV PFLAG member Roberta Kreider and Mary Lou Wallner, whose personal experiences with homophobic religious beliefs dramatically impacted their lives and families. To contact PFLAG: (610) 967-5219

GMLV IS ON VACATION

Gay Men of LV, the social / support group that meets 2nd and 4th Saturdays monthly at 424 Center Street, is currently on hiatus until September. Info: 610-954-7775.

6

SCOTT SAYS BY SCOTT LAUBNER

Alan Turing

Who invented the computer? Many people were involved. Among the first was Alan Turing.

Alan Mathison Turing was born in London on June 23, 1912. His early education at Sherborne Boarding School did not encourage his creativity. In 1931, Turing was accepted to King's College, Cambridge, which was more favorable to Turing's fertile, inquisitive mind.

The very first paper Turing published dealt with the idea that machines could solve mathematical equations. He theorized that various machines could deal with different problems and speculated that a universal "Turing Machine" could coordinate the smaller machines. Turing's early theories actually serve as a prototype for the modern computer.

Also during this period, Turing's homosexuality became a definitive part of his identity. He developed a close friendship with one of his classmates, Christopher Morcom. When Morcom died of tuberculosis in 1930, his family held an annual memorial service for him, which Turing faithfully attended every year.

In late 1939, World War II changed the course of Turing's life. When Britain declared war on Germany, Turing started working for the British Cryptanalytic (code and cipher) Department.

For secret messages Nazi forces used a complicated machine to make sophisticated ciphers known as the Enigma Codes. During the course of the war, Turing was able to accomplish what many thought was impossible, he broke the Enigma Codes for British intelligence. Because of his work, the British were alerted to Rommel's troop movements in North Africa, and the positions of U-boats in the Atlantic. Turing received the Order of the British Empire for meritorious service in shortening the war.

The possibilities of computers continued to intrigue Turing. He wrote a paper called, "Computer Machinery and Intelligence," which was published in the philosophical journal *Mind*, in 1950. This paper included the now famous "Turing Test," which challenged people to discern whether an answer to a question was given by a man or a computer. The test demonstrated that the operations of the human brain are computable.

At this time, Turing lived with a young man named Arnold Murray. Murray was responsible for the burglary of Turing's apartment, which Turing reported to the police. When asked what the nature of his relationship was with Murray, Turing naively confessed everything about the homosexual affair to the police. The courts convicted Turing under the Gross Indecency Act of 1885 (which 60 years before had been used against Oscar Wilde).

Turing "chose" to try a new hormone therapy, rather than going to jail. Scientists in the 1950s believed that injecting gay men with estrogen would neutralize their sexual urges. Under the "treatment," Turing grew breasts and developed chemical depression. Inconsoled and brokenhearted, he committed suicide in 1954.

As Turing's brilliant work has been declassified his fame has grown. In the 1980s a "Turing Computer Language" was developed in Toronto, and a play about his life ran on Broadway. His birthplace was marked with a plaque by the English Heritage Trust.

Alan Turing killed himself at age 52. His early death was a result of discrimination against homosexuality, which forced him to undergo chemical alteration of his body and brain. As a result the world lost a visionary scientist whose work with computers could have continued for 30 years.

Too many misinformed "educators" insist that young people need not be taught about the sexual orientation of historical figures because, "their private lives had nothing to do with their accomplishments." Alan Turing is one more example of the drastic falsity of that assumption.

To learn more about Alan Turing visit the website <http://www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/~ahodges/Turing.html>

**THE COURTS
CONVICTED TURING
UNDER THE
GROSS INDECENCY
ACT OF 1885
(WHICH 60 YEARS
BEFORE HAD BEEN
USED AGAINST
OSCAR WILDE).**

A VIEW FROM A DYKE

BY LIZ BRADBURY

EBBS

People who are good, kind and fair do not engage in sexual harassment or discrimination. It is insecure sociopaths who have the need to actively bully others in order to feel adequate. Someone who harasses or discriminates against you on the job is this kind of person. I'm not talking about the passive bigot, or the "look the other way" conservative." I'm talking about the all out, "make-you-lose-your-job, compare-you-to-satan-in-public, homophobe." Luckily their numbers are thinning but there are still some out there.

What would be a good moniker for these types? Certainly not "evil genius", because stupidity fuels their efforts to hunt for scapegoats to blame for their mistakes. Let's call them "evil knuckleheads"...no that's too benign. How about "evil back-biters." EBBs for short. (Ebb means to fade away, let's hope they eventually do.)

SECRETIVE PEOPLE ARE A-1 PRIME TARGETS FOR EBBs, BECAUSE EBBs CAN SMELL FEAR THROUGH THE CLOSET DOOR.

Earlier this year, Trish and I spoke at DeSalles University about GLBT rights. We covered the fact that GLBT workers in PA are not protected from discrimination, but we explained that being "out" at work makes you safer because most people believe gay men and lesbians are legally protected. We also spoke about grassroots political efforts. A few days later, a lesbian who attended the seminar called us about further political action. She said our talk had made her choose to be out at work but that another lesbian attendee had vowed to remain even deeper in the closet since her employment rights aren't legally protected.

After thinking about this it hit me that the reason hiding in the closet doesn't protect you, is...EBBs.

See, EBBs don't harass people because they are gay. EBBs harass people who are vulnerable. A person in the closet, is an easy target. Never saying anything about your personal life, your relationships, what you did over the weekend, or even your political views, is just plain odd. It's un-American. "Normal" people talk about themselves constantly. Secretive people are prime A1 targets for EBBs, because EBBs can smell fear through the closet door. EBBs are trolling for someone they can corner. The closet is a perfect corner.

Think of this, the EBB perceives you are "different" somehow and asks you if you are gay. What do you say? To seem straight, you would have to say no, because a straight person would probably not say, "none of your business." Now that you have lied, how long can you keep it up?

Being abnormally secretive and obsessively private about fairly simple things in your life makes you far more vulnerable than someone who is out, while it erodes your self esteem. Remember EBBs shy away from people with strong self-esteem and confidence. If you're out and proud, you aren't very vulnerable. EBBs don't choose victims who stand up for themselves.

Most reasons for being closeted are more about the internalized homophobia of the closetee than the actual conditions of society. If you have a reason that isn't based in internalized homophobia, where being closeted actually makes you safer, email it to me.

I'm not saying that if you are out and honest about your life you will never be a victim of discrimination. What I am saying is that the reverse won't protect you. Sure your life is your own business, but there is also nothing wrong with being gay, so it also follows that there is nothing wrong with other people knowing you are. Most people don't care, those who will hate you for it, as Ward Cleaver would probably say, aren't worth having as friends.

7

THE GLBT "Q" "A" "WXYZ" NAME GAME

BY PATRICIA SULLIVAN

Have you noticed that other minority groups don't need to add people who are not really part of their mission, to their group's name? For example, does the Puerto Rican Festival, need to call itself the Puerto Rican and Friends Festival? Would anyone expect them to?

At the Pride Film Fest a straight woman literally waived the Pride Guide in my face and demanded why the "Embrace Diversity - gays, lesbian, bisexuals & transgendered together" on the cover of the Pride Guide didn't include "straight allies". She said she might not feel comfortable to attend the event because "straight allies" were not mentioned.

This incident caused a local minister to say: "Can you imagine the nerve someone would have to have to even consider asking the NAACP to start calling themselves the NAACP/W/P to accommodate supportive white people?" Even predominately straight organizations that have, as a significant part of their mission to actively support or welcome gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered people, rarely include the words gay, lesbian etc. in their name (with the notable and laudable exception of PFLAG - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

Yet many people working within the gay community are beginning to insist that GLBT organizations add additional letters to be inclusive of people who are not GLBT. Personally, I think all this "to do" over inclusion ranges from efforts to be kind to internalized homophobia. The GLBT community is so used to being discriminated against that we try our utmost to be inclusive. We understand what it is like to be excluded. We are denied protection from discrimination on the job, in housing, and in public accommodation, not to mention the right to marry, and adoption. We want to treat others in the way we would like to be treated. That's a good attitude to live by. But, we do have a tendency to fall all over ourselves to acknowledge even the slightest support from non-GLBT sources. Is this because we (or they) believe that we do not deserve the same level of support they give other groups? Or, that supporting us is risky and we should be especially grateful to them for taking that risk?

While the word "allies" can be seen as an effort toward inclusiveness, a label like "allies" also allows people who really aren't sure that it's ok to be GLBT to feel safe to be seen at our events or to speak on our behalf. "I'm an ally." Inherent in this statement, is of course, "I'm not gay." But we all agree it's not bad to be gay, right? So why are we so concerned that people who are not gay might possibly be perceived to be gay? If people signing letters of support for the NAACP wrote "ally" after their name, they would be identifying themselves as "not black," but couldn't it also be seen as a bit racist?

We should do our best to continue to be open and inclusive of everyone. It is the right thing to do. We want no less for ourselves. Politically, we are only 10%, so we need all the support we can get. But we must never lose sight of the fact that it is not bad to be GLBT and that we deserve to have the same rights as everyone else. So we need to think carefully about why we are adding "Questioning" or "S" or "A" to GLBT.

CAN YOU IMAGINE THE NERVE SOMEONE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE TO EVEN CONSIDER ASKING THE NAACP TO START CALLING THEMSELVES THE NAACP W/P TO ACCOMMODATE SUPPORTIVE WHITE PEOPLE?"

PRIDE THANKS:

Pride LV President Allyson Hamm wishes to thank EVERYONE who contributed in putting on the Valley's Pride Month events in June! From Board members, to performers, to volunteers, to all the people who attended, everyone made this event happen. Thanks!

POP QUIZ

- When did John Water's movie "Pink Flamingos" debut?
A. 1968 B. 1972 C. 1978 D. 1982
- In the 1920's Harlem Renaissance, 1000s of cross-dressing gay men and women attended the annual _____ Lodge Ball.
A. Hamilton B. Trexler C. Hanover D. Tilghman
- Probably the first (US) lesbian periodical, called _____, and was published in 1947 in L.A.
A. Bilitus B. The Ladder C. VisaVersa D. Advocate
- Jose' Sarria was the first openly gay American to run for public office, in 19____? A. 50 B. 61 C. 68 D. 75
- What openly gay man helped M.L. King organize the 1967 Civil Rights March on Washington?
A. Gore Vidal B. James Baldwin
C. Bernard Ruskin D. Johnny Mathis
- Who founded PFLAG in 1981? A. Adele Star
B. Mel White C. Bella Abzug D. Connie Vista
- Who wrote, in his "Confessions," "I felt that his soul and mine were one soul in two bodies?"
A. Plato B. St. Augustine C. Jesus D. St. Francis
- In what Fellini film (1960), does a transvestite predict - by the year 2000 everyone will be homosexual?
A. La Strada B. La Dolce Vita
C. Juliette of the Spirits D. 8 1/2
- Who said publicly in 1976: "Like many men, I too have had homosexual experiences and I am not ashamed."
A. Brando B. Garbo C. Nixon D. Kissinger
- In the movie, "They Only Kill Their Masters," who plays the lesbian killer?
A. Barbara Billingsly B. Donna Reed
C. Diana Shore D. June Allyson

1.B 2.A 3.C 4.B 5.C 6.A 7.B 8.B 9.A 10.D

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Safe Space of Lehigh University
PFLAG Lehigh Valley
ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women
GLORA
Pride of the LV
LV Gay Men's Chorus
NCC GLBT Student Union
The Lehigh Valley Labor Party
EQUAL! at Leucet
Metropolitan Community Church LV
OutThere - Cedar Crest
9th Street Shelter Allentown
LV Community Action Committee
GLEE at Air Products

FACT
AIDS Outreach
The Unitarian Universalist Church LV
GLOSS
LEPOCO
GLSN of Dun & Bradstreet
AIDS Services Center
Theatre Outlet
Integrity - Bethlehem
The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre
The Latin Alliance
The Enigma Players
New Covenant Family Ministries
Properties of Merit
Allentown City Democratic Committee
Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

To add your organization to this list, call 610-432-5449 or email VFP@lizfish@aol.com

QUOTE #1

"Like you, I've suffered. We've all been misunderstood. We've all been made fun of. But I'm not going to allow people who don't like me to rent space in my brain."

Tammy Faye (Baker) Messner, speaking in support of gays and lesbians, about avoiding self hate, at Tampa's Pride Fest party

QUOTE #2

"The real question, which so far not even the most ardent church - and - state separationists are raising, is : Why this odd privilege of faith over say, knowledge or reason? Recall that Webster's offers as a general definition of faith: 'firm or unquestioning belief in something for which there is no proof.' Would we want a faith-based defense system in which bombs are deflected by prayer? Or faith-based Medicare?"

From "Faith-based Backfire" by Barbara Ehrenreich

QUOTE #3

"If you don't believe in the possibility of change, think of this; less than 60 years ago the government of Germany condemned gay men and lesbians to concentration camps. This month, the government of Germany has conferred the establishment of most marriage rights to same-sex couples."

VFP Editors

Distelfink © 8/01 "Don't even think..."
by Ruby Zebu

Smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease, premature skin aging, diminished sense of taste (causing excessive use of salt), and shortens your life and the lives of people and animals around you. It causes 65% of home fires and forest fires, and 30% of all litter is butts. And your money lines the pockets of tobacco companies that caused the deaths of millions by lying, purely for corporate greed and they market tobacco to children!

So... are you saying I shouldn't start smoking to lose weight?



Doesn't the GLBT Community have enough problems without causing its own genocide?

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